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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,837	11/14/2003	Vincent Bryan	31132.189	2562
46333	7590	06/05/2007		
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN ST SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			EXAMINER STEWART, ALVIN J	
			ART UNIT 3738	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/05/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/713,837	Applicant(s) BRYAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Alvin J. Stewart	Art Unit 3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/13/07 & 05/17/07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 13, 18 and 30-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 13 and 33-37 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 30, 31 and 38-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Reissue Applications***

The Examiner has object to the original disclosure of the reissue patent application because of the following reasons:

***Contents of a reissue application .***

An application for reissue must contain the entire specification, including the claims, and the drawings of the patent. No new matter shall be introduced into the application. No reissue patent shall be granted enlarging the scope of the claims of the original patent unless applied for within two years from the grant of the original patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 251.

(1) Specification, including claims. The entire specification, including the claims, of the patent for which reissue is requested must be furnished in the form of a copy of the printed patent, in double column format, each page on only one side of a single sheet of paper. If an amendment of the reissue application is to be included, it must be made pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. The formal requirements for papers making up the reissue application other than those set forth in this section are set out in § 1.52. Additionally, a copy of any disclaimer ( § 1.321), certificate of correction ( § § 1.322 through 1.324), or reexamination certificate ( § 1.570) issued in the patent must be included. (See also § 1.178).

(2) Drawings. Applicant must submit a clean copy of each drawing sheet of the printed patent at the time the reissue application is filed. If such copy complies with § 1.84, no further drawings will be required. Where a drawing of the reissue application is to include any changes relative to the patent being reissued, the changes to the drawing must be made in accordance

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with paragraph (b)(3) of this section. The Office will not transfer the drawings from the patent file to the reissue application.

Therefore, the Applicant's representative has to substitute the originally filed claims, specification, drawings, etc., with the corrected claims, drawings and specification and the newly amended claims.

Additionally, the Examiner wants to point out that this Application is a continuation of reissue Application 09/776,394. Since both of these are still pending, the Applicant is required to add this reference in both applications, the applications must be amended to include cross reference each to the other in the first line of the specification and the claims of the original patent to be reissue must be presented with original claim numbering in EACH of the reissues (con't and original) but the pending version of an original claim can only exist in one of the reissues. Added claims in each one will follow the highest numbered patent claim.

Applicant is reminded of the continuing obligation under 37 CFR 1.178(b), to timely apprise the Office of any prior or concurrent proceeding in which Patent No. 5,865,846 is or was involved. These proceedings would include interferences, reissues, reexaminations, and litigation.

Applicant is further reminded of the continuing obligation under 37 CFR 1.56, to timely apprise the Office of any information which is material to patentability of the claims under consideration in this reissue application.

These obligations rest with each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application for reissue. See also MPEP §§ 1404, 1442.01 and 1442.04.

The reissue oath/declaration filed with this application is defective because it fails to contain the right language. In paragraph 19, were the applicant's representative "acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application" is incorrect and must be as following: "the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application" statement that all errors which are being corrected in the reissue application up to the time of filing of the oath/declaration arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.175 and MPEP § 1414.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1), a supplemental reissue oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) must be received before this reissue application can be allowed.

Claims 1-9, 13, 18 and 30-44 are rejected as being based upon a defective reissue application under 35 U.S.C. 251. See 37 CFR 1.175. The nature of the defect is set forth above.

Receipt of an appropriate supplemental oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) will overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 251. An example of acceptable language to be used in the supplemental oath/declaration is as follows:

"Every error in the patent which was corrected in the present reissue application, and is not covered by a prior oath/declaration submitted in this application, arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant."

See MPEP § 1414.01.

This application is objected to under 37 CFR 1.172(a) as the assignee has not established its ownership interest in the patent for which reissue is being requested. An assignee must establish its ownership interest in order to support the consent to a reissue application required by 37 CFR 1.172(a). The assignee's ownership interest is established by:

(a) filing in the reissue application evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee, or

(b) specifying in the record of the reissue application where such evidence is recorded in the Office (e.g., reel and frame number, etc.).

The submission with respect to (a) and (b) to establish ownership must be signed by a party authorized to act on behalf of the assignee. See MPEP § 1410.01.

An appropriate paper satisfying the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73 must be submitted in reply to this Office Action.

The Applicant's representative failed to claim ownership in the Consent of Assignee. The Assignee owning an undivided interest in the original patent is in blank. Correction is required.

This application is objected to under 37 CFR 1.172(a) as the assignee has not established its ownership interest in the patent for which reissue is being requested. An assignee must establish its ownership interest *in order to support the consent to a reissue application required by 37 CFR 1.172(a)*. The submission establishing the ownership interest of the assignee is informal. There is no indication of record that the party who signed the submission is an appropriate party to sign on behalf of the assignee. 37 CFR 3.73(b).

A proper submission establishing ownership interest in the patent, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.172(a), is required in response to this action.

The consent of assignee and statement under 3.73b do not match up to the patent assignee info in PALM.

Statement under 37 CFR 3.73 (b) and the consent do not give the proper Patent Owner and the proper chain of title from the inventors. Our system shows that the proper Assignee is Warsaw Orthopedic, Inc. Correction or clarification is required.

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The applicants need to file new consent/3.73b that match up with the PATENT assignee information.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-9, 13 and 33-37 are allowed.

Claim 32 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Amendment***

Claims 10-12, 14-17 and 19-29 are canceled.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 18, 30, 38, 39 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Monson US Patent 4,863,477.

Monson discloses an intervertebral disc (2) comprising an exterior surfaces (4 & 6), a resilient body (30 & 42), an anchor (10, 13, 14) implanted in an anterior surface of a vertebral

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body, forming concave surfaces and inserting between the formed concave surfaces (see Figure 2, and col. 2, lines 55-58). However, Monson is silent on how the slightly concave walls of the patient's endplates are formed. It is an inherent characteristic of the method of replacing artificial discs to use tools in order to remove the damaged material in the disc. It is well known in the art to use knives, mill jigs, etc., to remove the damaged tissue. Therefore, it is well known in the art to use any type of tool in order to create a slightly concave shape in the walls of each endplate.

Claims 18, 30, 38, 39 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bainville et al US Patent 5,674,294.

Bainville et al discloses an intervertebral disc (7) comprising an anchor (the surfaces of plates 9 & 11) implanted in an anterior surface of a vertebral body, forming concave surfaces and inserting between the formed concave surfaces (see Figures 2 & 3; and col. 3, lines 18-24).

Regarding claim 10, see col. 4, lines 16-26.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 31, 40-42 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monson US Patent 4,863,477.

Monson discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Monson does not disclose a milling jig.



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At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a milling jig to make the holes between the vertebral bodies because Applicant has not disclosed that using that specific tool provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with any other tool because any tool will perform equally as well.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Monson reference to obtain the invention as specified in claims 31, 40-42 and 44.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin J. Stewart whose telephone number is 571-272-4760. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM-5:30PM(1 Friday B-week off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*A. Stewart*  
**ALVIN J. STEWART**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
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May 25, 2007.